6. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the oxidation is performed by means of a hypochlorite in basic aqueous solution.

7. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 1, characterized in the following steps:

preparing an aqueous solution comprising the hydrogenated and oxidized dextran and at least one water-soluble ferric salt;

adjusting the pH of said aqueous solution to a value above 10 by addition of a base;

heating the mixture to a temperature above 100°C until it turns into a black or dark brown collodial solution and is filterable through a 0.45 μm filter; and

purification and stabilization of the solution using filtration, heating and membrane separations and addition of one or more stabilizers.

8. (Amended) A process according to claim 7, characterized in that the stabilization comprises addition of at least one salt of an organic hydroxy acid.

10. (Twice Amended) Iron-dextran compound produced according to claim 1, characterized in that its apparent peak molecular weight (Mp) is 50.000-150.000 Da and its iron content is 15-45% b.w.

14. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, further comprising a salt of an organic hydroxy acid as stabilizer.

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15. (Amended) Use of an iron-dextran compound according to claim 10, for preparation of a parenterally administrable therapeutical composition for prophylaxis or treatment of iron-deficiency, comprising the following steps:

providing the iron-dextran compound as an aqueous solution; and

sterilizing the composition.

16. (Amended) Use of a dextran preparation obtainable by a process according to claim 9, for the production of an iron-dextran compound in a process comprising the following steps:

mixing the dextran preparation as an aqueous solution with at least one water soluble ferric salt;

heating the mixture to a temperature above 100 C until said mixture turns into a colloidal solution that can be filtered through a 0.45 μm filter; and

purification of the solution.

Please add the following new claims:

17. (New) The process for producing a dextran preparation according to claim 9, wherein the dextran has a molecular weight less than 7,000 Daltons.

18. (New) The process for producing a dextran preparation according to claim 17, wherein the dextran is purified by one or more membrane separations having a cut-off value suitable for holding back dextran molecules above 2,700 Daltons.

19. (New) The process for producing a dextran preparation according to claim 18, wherein the process further comprises further hydrolysis, and one or more separations having a cut-off value between 340 and 800 Daltons removing the smaller molecules.

20. (New) The process for producing a dextran preparation according to claim 9, wherein the dextran preparation has a reduced sugar content not above 4% b.w. after the oxidation.

21. (New) The process for producing a dextran preparation according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogenation is performed by means of sodium borohydride in aqueous solution.

22. (New) The process for producing a dextran preparation according to claim 9, wherein the oxidation is performed by means of a hypochlorite in basic aqueous solution.

23. (New) The process for producing a dextran preparation according to claim 22, wherein the hypochlorite is sodium hypochlorite.

24. (New) The process according to claim 3, followed by further hydrolysis and one or more membrane separations having a cut-off value between 340 and 800 Da removing the smaller molecules.

25. (New) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the oxidation is performed by means of a sodium hypochlorite in basic aqueous solution.

26. (New) A process according to claim 7, further comprising drying the solution to obtain the desired iron-dextran compound as a stable powder.

27. (New) A process according to claim 7, characterized in that the stabilization comprises addition of at least one salt of an organic hydroxy acid selected from the group comprising citrates and gluconates.

28. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, further comprising a salt of an organic hydroxy acid selected from the group comprising citrates and gluconates as stabilizer.

29. (New) Iron-dextran compound produced according to claim 1, characterized in that its apparent peak molecular weight (Mp) is 70.000-130.000 Da and its iron content is 15-45% b.w.

30. (New) Iron-dextran compound produced according to claim 1, characterized in that its apparent peak molecular weight (Mp) is 80.000-120.000 Da and its iron content is 15-45% b.w.

31. (New) Use of an iron-dextran compound according to claim 15, further comprising adding salt of an organic hydroxy acid to said compound.

32. (New) Use of an iron-dextran compound according to claim 15, further comprising adjusting the iron content of the compound through the addition of water.

33. (New) Use of a dextran preparation according to claim 16, further comprising drying the solution to obtain the iron-dextran compound as a stable powder.